

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6683**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 172

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 26, 2007

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Covenant Marriage.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Kruse

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** ☒ GENERAL  
☒ DEDICATED  
☐ FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill defines "covenant marriage". It provides that a couple may designate a covenant marriage when applying for a marriage license or after marriage. The bill requires that a marriage license must indicate whether the marriage is a covenant marriage. It also establishes the procedure for declaring a covenant marriage.

The bill requires the State Department of Health to maintain records of covenant marriage declarations. It also requires the Attorney General to develop an informational pamphlet regarding covenant marriage.

**Effective Date:** Upon passage.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The State Department of Health (ISDH) has identified some minimal cost necessary to develop a new form for circuit courts to use to implement the new classification of covenant marriage. This provision should be able to be implemented within the existing level of the ISDH budget and resources. The Department has previously estimated that this bill would require approximately \$11,000 for one-time systems revisions.

The Office of the Attorney General (AG) is required to develop the pamphlet providing information on covenant marriage required by the bill. The AG should be capable of developing the pamphlet within the current level of resources available to the Office. Depending on the extent of the use of the AG's Internet website for the publication of the pamphlet, additional associated printing and postage expenditures are expected to be minimal.

*Appropriation Background:* The ISDH administrative appropriations were made from the state General Fund

and the dedicated Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement Fund for FY 2008 and from the state General Fund for FY 2009.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** The county circuit court clerks may incur some additional expenses related to filing covenant marriage designations for existing marriages.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** State Department of Health; Office of the Attorney General.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Circuit Courts; Circuit Court Clerks.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Kathy Norris, 317-234-1360.